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- Jefferson Barracks, *Eggert*, September 11, 1877, M. B. G. Herb. No. 79907;
 Randolph, *Mackenzie* 368, October 2, 1898, M. B. G. Herb. No. 89720;
 Randolph, *Mackenzie* 369, October 2, 1898;
 Sheffield, *Hoffman*, October 7, 1916;
 Sheffield, *Mackenzie* 658, October 18, 1901;
 St. Louis, *Eggert* 225 a, September 4, 1877, U. S. Herb. No. 950203, exactly same date and collection as specimens on sheet No. 79907;
 St. Louis, *Engelmann*, date not given, M. B. G. Herb. No. 79963.

Panicum Lineare, Linn.

BY OLIVER A. FARWELL.

In the *Species Plantarum* Ed. 2, Vol. 1, p. 85, 1762, Linnaeus published *Panicum lineare* as a new species with the following description: "Panicum spicis digitatis subquaternis linearibus, flosculis solitariis secundis muticis. Habitat in Indiis. Culmi prostrati, laeves, ramosi. Spiculae lineares, rectae, angustae. Flores subtus alterni. Calycis squama exterior brevior, patens, rachi adherens."

There is no specimen in the Linnaean Herbarium and there is no reference to older authors. The species must be interpreted from the description alone. It is self evident from the diagnosis that the species belongs to the *Digitaria* group. It can not be *P. Dactylon* Linn. since it is *laeves* and *prostrate* while the latter has the spikes *basi interiore villosis* and the plant is *sarmentis repentibus*; it can not be *P. sanguinale* Linn. or *P. filiforme* Linn. since in these the flowers are *in pairs* while in *P. lineare* they are placed *singly*. The habitat *in Indiis* may mean India and the East Indies, or it may mean in both the East and West Indies. Linnaeus used it both ways, I believe, but in the present instance the presumption is that he meant in both the East and West Indies since in the *Mantissa* II 323, 1771 he refers to his *P. lineare*, without comment, the *P. lineare* Burm. Ind. 25, t. 10. f. 2 and the *Gramen*

Dactylon, etc., Sloane, hist. 1, p. 113, t. 70, f. 3. We can not, therefore, neglect a study of the West Indian species in endeavoring to ascertain the proper application of the Linnaean name. Mr. Hitchcock in Contributions U. S. Nat. Herb. XII, pp. 134, 142 and 209, 1908-9, has shown that the Sloane reference belongs to what is now known as *Syntherisma setosa* (Desv.) Nash or *S. digitata* (Swz.) A. S. Hitch.; he combines under the latter name two forms that have been variously considered as distinct species or as varieties of *Panicum sanguinale* Linn. Grisebach, Flora Br. W. Ind. 544, 1864, has described these West Indian forms as *pilose*; therefore, they can scarcely be considered as belonging to *P. lineare* Linn. which was described as *laeves*. It has been customary to accept Burmann's *Panicum lineare* Fl. Ind. 25, pl. 10, fig. 2 (fig. 3 of the plate) as typifying the Linnaean species but this can not be adhered to as it did not make its appearance until 6 years after Linnaeus had published his *P. lineare*. Burmann uses the Linnaean diagnostic description verbatim and the references to Sloane mentioned above, with the added remark:—"Specimina ex India missa variant spicis saepe binis linaeribus and flosculis alternis." Since Linnaeus assisted Burmann in the preparation of his Flora Indica, the above phrase seems to indicate that the former thought that the variable specimens from India were not typical of his *P. lineare* but could be referred to it; also it may be considered as more evidence that the original habitat "in Indiis" as given by Linnaeus did not include India but referred more especially to the East and West Indian Archipelagoes. It seems probable that fig. 2 (which is fig. 3 of the plate due to a transposition of the numbers) represents the variable plants of India mentioned in the supplementary paragraph. Hooker, Flora Br. India VII, 289, 1897 refers Burmann's *P. lineare* to *Cynodon Dactylon* (Linn.) Pers. I have seen specimens of the latter from India that might be said to be fairly well represented by Burmann's figure if it may be viewed in the light of a *very crude drawing*. The Index Kewensis, Vol. II, 415, 1895, refers it to *Paspalum brevifolium* Fluegge; but Hooker, l. c., 18, describes this species as with *geminate* flowers, one sessile and the other pedicelled which is at wide variance with Burmann's figure, and the Linnaean description. The Index Kewensis recognizes *Panicum glabrum* Gaud. as a valid species; also *P. lineare* Linn. as a valid species of N. America but I am unable to interpret it.

The Linnaean description as compared with modern day descriptions is rather incomplete; in so far as it goes, however, it is characteristic of the plant that has generally been known as *Panicum glabrum* Gaud. Likewise, by the process of eliminating all related species which it can not possibly be, we gradually come to the same species, *Panicum glabrum* Gaud. The last sentence of the Linnaean description referring to the exterior glume spreading and adhering to the rachis is not always apparent but I have seen just such a condition in some specimens of *Digitaria humifusa* collected in Michigan. This species is not usually accredited to the "Indies" in botanical manuals but Hooker l. c., 17, gives it for the Himalaya Mts. and as far south as Simla, and the Index Kewensis to North Temperate and Tropical regions. Perhaps Linnaeus was misinformed as to its distribution and as happened in other cases with him, gave accordingly a wrong habitat. The more important synonyms are given below.

Digitaria linearis (Linn.) Pers. Syn. 1, 85, 1805; Crep. Man. ed. 2, 335, 1866. *Panicum linearis* Linn. Sp. Pl. Ed. 2, Vol. 1, 85, 1762; Burm. Fl. Ind. 25 pl. 10 fig. 2 (3), 1768; Krock. Fl. Siles. 1, 95, 1787. *Syntherisma linearis* (Linn.) Nash, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, XXII, 420. 1895. *Panicum Ischaemum* Schreb. ex Schweigg. Spec. Fl. Erlang, I, 16, 1804. *Digitaria humifusa* Pers., l. c. *Paspalum ambiguum* Lam. and D. C., Fl. Fr. III, 16, 1805. *Syntherisma glabrum* Schrad. Fl. Germ. 163, t. 3. fig. 7, 1806.

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Our Sparrows.

BY BROTHER ALPHONSUS, C. S. C.

In this article I have not made an exhaustive study of each species, but have given their more striking characteristics as these were learned through observation. As the Song Sparrow is the commonest of all our sparrows, as well as the most gifted as a songster, I have written a fuller account of this species. Four sparrows—Henslow's, Lark, Swamp, and Savanna—are either rare